



April 24, 2012

Representative Ken Horn
House Committee Chair, Energy and Technology
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Horn:

The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, representing over 1,100 businesses in the tri-county region, would like for you to support Senate Bill 1064, legislation that would streamline the process for allowing mobile internet providers to “collocate” transmission technology on already existing communications towers. Speeding up the local permitting process when only minor infrastructure changes are needed will cut out some of the red tape that currently hampers and discourages further expansion of mobile communications services. Improving service on an existing structure, while saving space and maximizing efficiency and coverage will count for better mobile coverage and faster mobile speeds.

Our membership finds value in reliable and affordable, high speed mobile coverage. Access to high quality mobile coverage will help shape our ability to achieve future economic success in the region and across Michigan. As you well know, technology is transforming the way we communicate, with roughly one in five landline customers in the U.S. switching to “wireless only” services.

Michigan's current regulations are made up of a system of red tape, ordinances, processes and fees that differ from community to community. Establishing uniform and consistent fees, application and approval deadlines and eliminating some of the burdensome processes for collocation of existing communications towers will help meet the demand for improved mobile speeds.

Senate Bill 1064 would speed up the process of minor infrastructure counts to existing communications towers by requiring land use approval within 60 days after an application is received and would limit the application fee to \$250. In addition, these minor changes would not be subject to special land use approval, which often times can be a lengthy process. Making Michigan a more attractive place to invest and do business is something that must be a priority and this legislation would accomplish this effort.

I appreciate your consideration of Senate Bill 1064. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Kristin Beltzer
Sr. Vice President Gov. Relations & Public Affairs
Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce